

TITLE 16. VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Veterinary Medical Board (hereinafter "board") is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the action proposed at a hearing to be held at the State Capitol, 1st Floor Committee Hearing Room 112, main entrance is located on 10th Street, between L & N, Sacramento, CA 95814 at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the address listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the board at its office not later than 5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2008, or must be received by the board at the hearing.

The board, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AUTHORITY & REFERENCE

Pursuant to the authority vested by Section 4808 of the Business and Professions Code, and to implement, interpret or make specific Section 4841.5 of said Code, the board is considering changes to Division 20 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Existing law defines educational requirements for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT) to include a prescribed education and training program. Existing regulation require applicants for the Registered Veterinary Technician Examination to: 1) be a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or California approved RVT Program; or 2) complete a two year non-approved RVT program and obtain 18 months of non-specific practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian; or 3) obtain a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in an animal related science field including but not limited to animal husbandry, biology, chemistry, or biochemistry, and complete 12 months of non-specific practical experience; or 4) complete a combination of postsecondary education and complete 36 months practical experience under the direct supervision of a California licensed veterinarian.

Existing law also refers to a publication used by the California Veterinary Medical Association for purposes of approving internship/residency training hospital.

This regulatory proposal will amend the date of the publication used for approval of internship/residency training hospitals, repeal sections containing out of date and unnecessary eligibility categories and amend sections to consolidate and clarify the practical experience requirements for consistency and currency.

1. Amend Section 2021(g)

Existing regulation references a publication entitled "Internship and Residency Approval Program" dated July 8, 1999, used by the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to evaluate internship or residency program approval. Non-substantive changes made to the document require the Board to update the regulation to reflect the current revision date of April 10, 2007, for the publication titled "Internship and Residency Approval Program".

2. Repeal Section 2067

Business and Professions Code Section 4841.5 requires an applicant for the Registered Veterinary Technician examination to provide evidence of graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary institution approved by the board, or the equivalent therefore as determined by the board. Existing regulation defines the equivalent to the two-year curriculum requirement as completing a non-approved RVT program and 18 months of non-specific practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

The Board has determined this regulation not to be equivalent to a “two year curriculum in veterinary technology”. These proposed regulations would repeal section 2067 and eliminate the eligibility category for graduates of non-approved RVT program with 18 months of non-specific practical experience and those candidates who qualify under this category to apply under Section 2068.5 with specific education and practical experience requirements.

3. Repeal Section 2068

Business and Professions Code Section 4841.5 requires an applicant for the Registered Veterinary Technician examination to provide evidence of graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary institution approved by the board, or the equivalent therefore as determined by the board. Existing regulation defines the equivalent to be any applicant who receives a Bachelor of Science degree in a field or major related to animal health technology, including but not limited to animal husbandry, biology, chemistry, or biochemistry and a minimum of twelve (12) months of practical experience.

The Board has determined this regulation not to be equivalent to a “two year curriculum in veterinary technology”. These proposed regulations would repeal section 2068 and eliminate the eligibility category for candidates who hold applicable bachelor degrees to sit for the RVT examination and incorporate these candidates into the alternate route category with specific education and practical experience requirements.

4. Amend Section 2068.5

Section 2068.5 outlines the eligibility requirements whereby candidates for the RVT licensing examination can obtain a specific amount of education and practical experience. This eligibility category is referred to as the “alternate route” and requires completion of a combination of postsecondary education equal to 20 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction. Education and experience shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of specific subjects specified in Section 2068.5 and must be provided by a postsecondary academic institution or by a qualified instructor, in addition to 36 months practical experience under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian.

The proposed regulations outline specific education and experience requirements, clarify that the practical experience requirement is to be specific and directed by the supervising veterinarian and is to be 24 months consistent with the existing definition of “full time” in Section 2021(a).

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Local Mandate: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Section 17561 Requires Reimbursement: None

Business Impact:

The board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Impact on Jobs/New Businesses:

The board has determined that this regulatory proposal would have no significant impact on the creation of jobs or the elimination of jobs or impact the creation of or eliminate existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business:

The Veterinary Medical Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs: None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The board has determined that the proposed regulation would not have a significant impact on small businesses. This proposal consolidates existing eligibility categories into the alternate route category, thus making education and practical experience requirements equivalent and consistent with all other eligibility categories.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Board has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the Veterinary Medical Board at 1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6, Sacramento, CA 95825-3228.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Linda Kassis
Address: 1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6
Sacramento, CA 95825-3228
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The backup contact person is:

Name: Susan Geranen
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Website Access:

Materials regarding this proposal can be found at www.vmb.ca.gov